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CORRESPONDENCE.

April, 3, 1899.

Editor Virginia Law Register:

As a Virginian I have often boasted, on the authority of the late Prof. Minor, that the act passed by Virginia in October, 1778, prohibiting the importation of slaves gave "to the world the first example of abrogating this most wicked and pernicious traffic." See 1 Min. Insts. 164. I find it stated by Chief Justice Taney in *Dred Scott v. Sanford*, 19 Wall. 414, that "the first step taken by Connecticut upon this subject was as early as 1774, when it passed an act prohibiting the further importation of slaves into the State." It would seem from this that Connecticut, rather than Virginia, has the distinction of having passed the first act on this subject. Who is in error, Justice Taney or Prof. Minor?

Yours very truly,

Northport, N. Y.

B. A. MILBURN.